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MAY 22 2003

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May 14, 2003

Ms Marlene Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communication Commission  
445-12<sup>th</sup> Street Southwest  
Washington, DC 20554

WC Docket No. 03-90

Dear Secretary Dortch:

The Red Wing Port Authority has paid particular attention to changes in the telecommunications industry and how these changes can impact our community. We realized several years ago that advanced telecommunications services were critical to Red Wing's economic growth. Therefore, we lobbied hard for high speed Internet and are proud to say that this advanced service is now available to our business and residential customers. We continue to work with Quest to ensure that our customers understand the applications of this technology and maximize its use to strengthen the vitality of our city. Furthermore, we believe this accomplishment will have a positive impact on our ability to recruit businesses and will continue to play a key role in our ability to diversify our economy.

Another change that we are aware of taking place across the country is local telephone companies entering the long distance business. We are aware that in forty states the local service company, once it has shown that it has opened its network to competitors, has been allowed to provide long distance service. We also understand that in those forty states, rates for both local and long distance service have come down.

True to history, competition in the marketplace has shown to benefit consumers. It is with this in mind that we are writing to you to support competition in the marketplace here in Minnesota. We believe that allowing more companies to enter the long distance market in Minnesota would lead to better telecommunications services in our state and attract more businesses to our communities.

Therefore, the Red Wing Port Authority respectfully requests your support of efforts that will provide more long distance choices in Minnesota, for we believe that additional telecommunications competition will help Minnesota grow its economy.

Sincerely,

  
Myron White

CC: Senator Mark Dayton      Senator Norm Coleman  
Representative John Kline  
BCC: Karen Jothen

